

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 446

By Davis R

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the Reverend Artie Ray Chapman of Cocke County.

WHEREAS, it was with immense sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the tragic death of Reverend Artie Ray Chapman; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered as a valuable and loyal friend who dedicated his life to the Lord and to the church he founded, the Stokely Chapel Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Artie Ray Chapman was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his church, community and family; and

WHEREAS, born in 1934, Artie Ray Chapman declared his profound love for the Lord and was reborn as a Christian in 1955; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Artie Ray Chapman became an ordained minister, and began preaching at the Fairview Baptist Church in Morristown; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1959, a group of seven Christians met in a one-room school building on Stokely Farms to hear Reverend Artie Ray Chapman preach the Word of the Lord; from those humble beginnings Stokely Chapel Baptist Church was founded; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate the increasing membership of Stokely Chapel Baptist Church, a new sanctuary was built, and Reverend Chapman witnessed his congregation blossom to over 1,000 members, and

WHEREAS, Reverend Chapman was a graduate of the Baptist Tabernacle of Greenville, South Carolina, from which he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1993; and

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WHEREAS, because of his unwavering love for his country, Reverend Artie Ray Chapman was named an Honorary Colonel on the Governor's Staff; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Reverend Artie Ray Chapman leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Chapman enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 44 years, Nina Ruth Chapman; he was the proud parent of Kathy Faye Gates, Danny Ray Chapman, Ronny Lee Chapman and Barbara Jean Jarnagin; grandfather of Randy Crumbley, Tabatha Faye Chrisman, Artie Michael Sturm, Ronny Lee Chapman, Jr., Shea Jarnagin, Jonathan Jarnagin, Danielle Chapman and Michelle Chapman; and great-grandfather of Brandon Taylor Gates and D.J. Chrisman; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Artie Ray Chapman was also the cherished brother of Hubert Chapman, Fred S. Chapman, John Chapman, Mary Nell Livesay, Judy Manis, Ethel Mae Carmichael, Alice Jarnagin and Margie Gunter; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of the Reverend Artie Ray Chapman, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the Reverend Artie Ray Chapman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.